

SB 887 -- ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE REGISTRY

SPONSOR: Walsh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to contract with a third party for the establishment of a health care directives registry for the purpose of providing a place to securely store an advance health care directive on-line and to give authorized health care providers immediate access to the directive. The third party contractor is required to be solely responsible for the administration and maintenance of the registry. All data and information contained in the registry must remain confidential and must be exempt from the Sunshine law. An "advance health care directive" is defined as either a power of attorney for health care or a declaration signed by an adult declarant containing the person's direction concerning a health care decision.

All documents must be submitted electronically to the registry at intake points, such as licensed health care providers and licensed attorneys, and signed electronically with a unique identifier, such as a Social Security number, a driver's license number, or another unique government-issued identifier. The electronic submission will be accompanied by a fee not to exceed \$10.

This bill is similar to SS SCS SB 122 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill establishes a health care directives registry that is completely voluntary. All information is confidential and is exempt from the Sunshine law. An authorized provider can access the registry to determine if the provider or patient has a directive in the registry.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Walsh; BJC Health Care Systems; Missouri Hospital Association; and the Missouri Health Connection.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.